

PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES FOR Tuesday, March 27, 2012

LOCATION: Dondero Elementary School

PORTSMOUTH, NH

DATE: March 27, 2012

TIME: 7:15 PM [or thereafter]

I. CALL TO ORDER -The meeting was called to order by Chair Stevens at 7:30 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

- a. Present: LESLIE STEVENS (CHAIR), TOM MARTIN (VICE CHAIR), ANN WALKER, MITCH SHULDMAN, CAROL CHELLMAN, PATRICK ELLIS, MARY OLEA, DEXTER LEGG, ED MCDONOUGH, (SUPERINTENDENT), STEVE ZADRAVEC (ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT), STEPHEN BARTLETT (BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR), ANN MAYER (SAU 50 REPRESENTATIVE), ELIZABETH BOYNTON (STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE)

III. INVOCATION – Mrs. Stevens congratulated the boys basketball team for winning the championship. She also asked that we keep Kent LaPage in our thoughts.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Mrs. Stevens led the pledge of allegiance.

V. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

- a. **March 13, 2012**
MOTION: Mr. Legg to accept the minutes
SECOND: Mr. Martin
DISCUSSION:
VOTE: Unanimous approval

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT – None

VII. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Before the board meeting the Board took a tour of Dondero School and saw a presentation on KHAN ACADEMY

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

- a. ITEMS OF INFORMATION
- i. Board & Administration, MARCH The board, at its retreat, discussed the importance of regular updates of goals and plans.
 - ii. SUPERINTENDENT’S UPDATE The Board adopted a budget that has been sent on to the City Council. The Budget Book was given to each board member and will be given to City Council members. It will also be on the City Webpage and be available for the public.
 - iii. INITIAL REPORT OF EFFECTIVE TEACHING
 - iv. CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE CORRESPONDENCE TO U.S. SENATORS AND DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE A letter is being sent to the Senators and Representative Guinta about the partnership with UNH. The Visa was pulled and is affecting the Confucius Institute Program. Portsmouth will put the Chinese program on hold.
 - v. MET PROJECT POLICY BRIEF: INITIAL FINDINGS FROM THE MEASURES OF EFFECTIVE TEACHING REPORT

- vi. TABLES 1 & 2 FROM MET PROJECT INITIAL FINDINGS REPORT: STUDENT PERCEPTIONS AND RATES OF AGREEMENT AT THE CLASSROOM LEVEL
 - vii. POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES FROM MARCH 22, 2012 New policies are expected to come before the Board in April.
 - viii. MEMO: NAMING OF FACILITIES POLICY OPTIONS
- b. CORRESPONDENCE
- i. LETTERS OF RESIGNATION
 - 1. BRYAN MASCIO (RJLA)
 - 2. CINDY CAFASSO (PEEP)

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- a. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF EXTENDED LEAVE OF ABSENCE – GINA ABOOD (RJLA)

MOTION: To approve, Ms. Walker

SECOND: Mr. Legg

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimous

- b. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF TEACHER CONTRACTS FOR 2012-2013

No action taken due to MOA and signature page is not complete. By taking no action you are essentially approving.

- c. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL ADMINISTRATOR CONTRACTS FOR 2012-2013

MOTION: To approve, Mr. Shuldman

SECOND: Ms. Walker

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimous

- d. WORKSHOP SESSION: EFFECTIVE TEACHING IN PORTSMOUTH

Mr. Zdravec reported that a task force was formed to mirror the work done on the state level. The members are Principals Jeff Collins and George Shea, High School Teachers Maya Gloss and Lisa McAllister, Dondero Teacher Annette Meyerhorn, and Middle School Teachers Chris Rose and Laura Barone. The committee was led by Mr. Zdravec.

The State has formed a task force on what effective teaching looks like. They have been working on this for a year and did a phase I report with recommendations. Phase II has begun with more detail on the design elements.

Our task force has 4 pillars to look at.

- Hiring Process – after a rigorous hiring process we have hired great staff. Committees are formed, applications are reviewed and selected candidates are interviewed. Final candidates are either asked to provide a video of their teaching, are asked to teach a class here or the committee goes to their current classroom to see what the teaching style is like and how passionate they are about teaching. They are forming questions that will be given to the applicants to answer to get a writing sample to find out their teaching beliefs. References are checked and final candidates are sent to Mr. McDonough for the final interview. He then discusses his findings with the Principal and a finalist is chosen and recommended to the board.

The applicants we have hired are mostly local. We advertise locally. We don't see our teachers leave our district to go to other districts but we have attracted candidates from other districts. We are working on how we present ourselves and will continue to work on this process. Current teachers have helped us understand what attracted them to our school and have informed us of their prior experiences at other districts. Our Curriculum Council has been addressing "What Makes a Great Teacher"?

Due to the budget process we have had to post and hire candidates a bit late. We are right on target this year.

- Support/induct with mentors Mr. McDonough and Mr. Zadavec meet with the new teachers on a quarterly basis to see how they feel about the support they are receiving. They also work with them to be in line with effective teaching through professional development.
- Professional Development – the master plan has been redone to be goal driven and in line with Professional Learning Community. We have brought a lot of new technology into the classrooms and continue to offer training and workshops. These workshops sometimes are attended by bringing all three elementary schools together, department from each grade levels, and sometimes a diverse group to share ideas and success stories.
- Evaluations are done by the administrator's one year and peers the next.

An update on Phase I will be brought to the Board in April.

e. DISCUSSION OF NAMING OF FACILITIES OPTIONS

The committee brought three different approaches for the Board to review. The committee will check into what the City policy is, what other communities do, what the Board is allowed to name; buildings, rooms, fields. The committee will also look at past practice and align this policy with other policies in place.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

JBC The board met with the JBC on March 14th for a walk through of the addition to the Middle School and review the technology process. Technology budget was set at \$550,000. On May 14th Mr. Stokel will have an orientation for 6th graders and the JBC will hold a session for all parents and the public to update them on the status of the project.

The Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee has set the Sustainability Day for May 12th at PHS.

XI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a. GENERATE 4 SCHOOLS PRESENTATION, APRIL 10
- b. ELEMENTARY FACILITIES REPORT/RECOMMENDATION, MAY 8

XII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Martin made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:05.
SECONDED: Ms. Olea
DISCUSSION:
VOTE: Unanimous approval

Respectfully submitted by:

